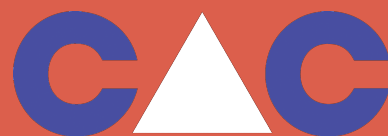


Kichang'achang'a

Chagga
Celebratory Ngoma



Cultural Arts Centre
Tumaini University Makumira

Cultural Insights:

*In Tanzania, it is difficult to separate the idea of song, dance, and rhythm. This is why in Swahili the word **ngoma** means all three concepts combined.*

In Chagga culture (and in many other cultures as well), there are several categories of music/dance.

This song is an example of a celebratory song/dance.

This is performed at celebrations and even in everyday life. Usually these songs carry some deeper societal meaning to be passed on to the people, in this case children and youth. This song is about respecting the people in society, and for the young women teaching them how to live peacefully with in-laws when the time comes.

Musical Concepts:

Call and Response: In many musical traditions in Tanzania, the call and response format is widely used. The Chagga are no exception. Introduce this concept with different exercises such as speaking in turn, or telling a story with a common refrain sung/spoken by the listeners. Ask for examples of how call and response is used in everyday life through speech, listening, etc.

Variations: Another aspect of many Chagga songs is that the leading part is often varied depending on the singer and the mood. This is often done without much conscious thought, and when duplicating this effect, it should be done in a carefree, easy way. Practice this with a group by providing a simple melody with lyrics and asking individuals or small groups to come up with possible variations. Ask them to change one note, a few notes, the rhythm, the words, etc.

This is especially applicable in the solo voice notation. Each call may be taken as an individual variation, and the player is free to mix and match the order of the patterns, or even create new ones. The patterns notated are a few standard variations.

Keeping Rhythm with the Body: In many Chagga traditional songs, a dance is performed along with the song. This utilizes the ankle bells (*njuga*) and helps keep everyone in the same rhythm and tempo. In this song, the dance involves walking as a group in a circle, stepping on the crotchet beat beginning with the right foot on "1". When the group sings "kichang'achang'a", everyone jumps on the beats 1 and 2 then continues the pattern (stepping with the right foot on beat 3, left on 4, etc.) as before. The ankle bells (*njuga*) are tied to the left foot. This should produce the rhythm notated below. The group begins to dance the first time they sing "kichang'achang'a" with the two jumps.



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Kichang'achang'a

Traditional Chagga

Transcribed by Megan Stubbs

$\text{♩} = 120$

Call

Ki - cha-ng'a-cha-ng'a e-we mpo-ro o ma-ku-na — Ko-nu mpo-
Ku-na - wo -

Response

E - wo ki - cha-ng'a-cha-ng'a

Ankle Bells
(*Njuga*)

4

ra ma-ku-na — Nyi - a le - wo-na msa-ngi — Ko-nu ko-
de na ma-mii — No-wa-i - nen-ge ka - ndo Ku-wo-de

E - wo ki - cha-ng'a-cha-ng'a E - wo ki - cha-ng'a-cha-ng'a

4

8

wo-de nda-mii — Wo-se no - wa-i-ndi-ye —
na wa-hu-su - hu-yo

E - wo ki - cha-ng'a-cha-ng'a E - wo ki - cha-ng'a-cha-ng'a —

8

The entire song can be repeated as many times as desired.

The solo part can be varied with different melodic phrases, or the notated melodic patterns can be used interchangeably.

The ankle bell part can also use different rhythms, the one transcribed is a rhythm resulting from the dance step.

This transcription is based on a performance by the Mtingo Group on the 25th of February, 2016.

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Translations (Poetic)

Links:

[Video of Kichang'achang'a](#)



A traditional Chagga group with the Chagga drums (*mtingo*)



An example of ankle bells (*njuga*)

Swahili:

K: Wewe mwali wa Makuna tumeanza mchezo (W: Ni wakati wa mchezo wa kichang'achang'a)

K: Kwenu mwali wa makuna (W: Ni wakati wa mchezo wa kichang'achang'a)

K: Umempata mwenzako (W: Ni wakati wa mchezo wa kichang'achang'a)

K: Ukampata na mkwe (W: Ni wakati wa mchezo wa kichang'achang'a)

K: Na mama mkwe pia (W: Ni wakati wa mchezo wa kichang'achang'a)

K: Uwape chakula (W: Ni wakati wa mchezo wa kichang'achang'a)

K: Wapo na mashangazi (W: Ni wakati wa mchezo wa kichang'achang'a)

K: Wote uwaheshimu (W: Ni wakati wa mchezo wa kichang'achang'a)

Niongeza: 'Makuna' ni jina la utani kwa Wachagga.

English:

Call: Hey daughter-in-law of 'Makuna' we've started the game (R: It's time to play the game kichang'achang'a)

C: At your place 'Makuna' (R: It's time to play the game kichang'achang'a)

C: You have found your match (R: It's time to play the game kichang'achang'a)

C: You have found your in-laws too (R: It's time to play the game kichang'achang'a)

C: And a mother-in-law as well (R: It's time to play the game kichang'achang'a)

C: Give them food (R: It's time to play the game kichang'achang'a)

C: You have aunts as well (R: It's time to play the game kichang'achang'a)

C: You should respect them all (R: It's time to play the game kichang'achang'a)

Note: 'Makuna' is a nickname used in the Chagga tribe.

Credits:

Video/Audio recording:

Aliki Mwakanjuki & Gabriel Olodi

Background research:

Gabriel Olodi & Mercy Kimaro

Transcriptions:

Megan Stubbs

Translations:

Megan Stubbs and Mercy Kimaro

Curriculum

design/formatting:

Megan Stubbs

Pronunciation

The language of the Chagga (*Kichagga*) is pronounced phonetically, the same as Swahili or Latin. See guide below for English pronunciation:

A – Father

E – Egg

I – Bee

O – Door (not closed as in low)

U – Loop

Y – diphthong 'y' as in yield



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